CLAIMS

1.   A communications system comprising:
        at least one user equipment:
        at least one resource node arranged to manage
resource for communication with said at least one user
equipment;
        at least one managing node for managing traffic
flow, wherein said at least one resource node and said at
least one managing node are arranged so that information
is passed between at least one resource node and at least
one managing node, said at least one managing node
selecting at least one parameter for a new traffic flow
based on said information.

2.   A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at
least one resource node and at least one managing node
are arranged to negotiate in order to select the at least
one parameter.

3.   A system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein
said information comprises negotiation information and
said negotiation information is determined by at least
one resource node.

4.   A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said
negotiation information comprises at least one of the
following: type of traffic, the bit rate of the traffic
and the cost.

5.   A system as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein
said negotiation information is determined for a
plurality of different traffic handling classes.

6.   A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said parameter is at least one of the following: traffic handling class, cost, and target bit rate

5   7.   A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein an access charge for the user equipment is dependent on the location of the user equipment in said system and/or time.

10   8.   A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least one resource node comprises an access node with which said user equipment is arranged to communicate.

9.   A system as claimed in claim 8,   wherein at least
15   one access node is a base station or radio network controller.

10. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said at least one managing node is located at an edge of
20   a network.

11. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said at least one managing node comprises an GGSN.

25   12. A   system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said resource node is an access node.

13. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein in means are provided for guiding an actual flow rate to
30   a target flow rate.

14. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein means are provided for detecting a new flow.

15. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein means are provided for balancing load between available resources.

5   16. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein communication between the managing node and resource node is via a GPRS tunnelling protocol or a multi-protocol label switching protocol.

10 17. A communications method for use in a communications system comprising at least one user equipment, at least one resource node arranged to manage resource for communication with said at least one user equipment, at least one managing node for managing traffic flow,
15 said method comprising the steps of passing information passed between at least one resource node and at least one managing node, and selecting at least one parameter for a new traffic flow based on said information.

20 18. A resource node for use in a system comprising:
         at least one user equipment;
         at least one resource node, and at least one at least one managing node for managing traffic flow,
         said resource node comprising means for managing resource
25 for communication with said at least one user equipment, and means for passing information to said at least one managing node.

30 19. A managing node for use in a communications system comprising at least one user equipment, at   least   one resource node arranged to manage resource for communication with said at least one user equipment, andat least one managing node, said managing node

comprising means for managing traffic flow, means for receiving information from at least one resource node, and means for selecting at least one parameter for a new traffic flow based on said information.